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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, source of all goodness, teach us how to master ourselves that we may serve others. May this self mastery inspire our lawmakers to serve others by joining You in bringing deliverance to those in captivity because of life's painful circumstances. Support our Senators with Your strength, as You guide them with Your wisdom. May Your peace that surpasses all human understanding be with us all our days. Lord, unite our lawmakers in the common cause of justice, righteousness, and truth.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 11, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator

from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 this evening. At 5:30 p.m., there will be three rollcall votes. The first vote will be on confirmation of the Triche-Milazzo nomination. That is a vote for a judge. We appreciate the cooperation we have gotten on that. The second vote will be on passage of S. 1619, the China currency legislation. The third vote will be on the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to S. 1660, the American Jobs Act.

Mr. CORKER addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. I wonder if the—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is still recognized.

Mr. REID. I have the floor. Does the Senator have a question?

Mr. CORKER. I would like to ask a question, if I could.

Mr. REID. I would be happy to yield to my friend for a question.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, it is my understanding that—first of all, I think most people in this body know it has been 995 days, and the free-trade agreements are just now coming to the floor. I had a very good conversation today with the majority leader, and I thank him so much for his courtesy. But it is my understanding, for all those who

want to see the free-trade agreements ratified prior to the time the South Korea President comes on Thursday to make his joint address—for all those who want to see that passed and in hand in advance of that—if we were to get on the jobs bill, as I understand it, we would have to stay on the jobs bill for 30 hours. So by getting on the jobs bill, it would actually preclude us from being able to successfully pass those free-trade agreements in the time that all of us would like.

I would like for that to be verified by the leader, if that is possible.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, around here we can do anything by unanimous consent. The work the Republican leader and I went through—perhaps a little easier on his side than mine—to get the trade bills in the position they are in was fairly difficult, and it would take unanimous consent to get off a particular piece of legislation we are on to move forward on the trade bills. That is my understanding. As I have indicated, we are looking forward to the votes this evening, and I will be happy to be as cooperative as I can with everyone involved. But in direct response to my friend's question, I think it is pretty clear it would take unanimous consent to do that.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, my understanding is that unanimous consent would be very unlikely considering the fact there are a number of folks who actually do not want to see these trade agreements pass. The evidence is, if we were to get on the jobs bill—and I thank the leader for talking with me about this—it is very unlikely the free-trade agreements will pass in the time all of us would like to see prior to the President of South Korea being here.

I yield the floor and thank the majority leader for letting me have this dialog and for having the dialog we had on Thursday evening.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say through the Chair to my friend, I was happy to have that dialog. As we have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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